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To the Advocates Library
with Sir Charles Ross' comment

~~A. 114. d.~~

A N E B R E V E

CRONICLE OF THE EARLIS OF ROSS.

INCLUDING NOTICES OF

THE ABBOTS OF FEARN,

AND OF

THE FAMILY OF ROSS OF BALNAGOWN.

EDINBURGH.—MDCCL.

EDINBURGH: T. CONSTABLE, PRINTER TO HER MAJESTY.

INTRODUCTION.

THE Manuscript which is printed in the following pages, was found at Balnagown Castle, while arranging a large mass of old family papers. It was in very bad condition, the half of one of the leaves being entirely wanting. It is written in a hand of the early part of the seventeenth century; and internal evidence proves it to have been written previously to the year 1615.

After some inquiries, I was favoured by George Ross, Esq., of Pitcalnie, the heir-male of the earlier family of Ross of Balnagown, with the use of a manuscript of a much more recent date, probably about 1730, which was evidently, to a certain extent, a copy of the older one; and which contained, in a form nearly entire, not only those parts in which it was defective, but also some further particulars in reference to the Abbots of Fearn. When I was on the eve of putting the whole to press, I was so fortunate as, by mere accident, to stumble upon

a MS. which had belonged to the late Mr. A. Deuchar, containing a recent transcript of the "Chronicle," which was happily complete in those passages where the others were effaced. I have thus been enabled to supply a complete copy of what has every appearance of being a chronicle of considerable antiquity; and I have had the instructions of Sir Charles W. A. Ross, now of Balnagown, to print it for private circulation among the friends of the family.

I shall not venture to offer any remarks on the authenticity of the facts which it professes to narrate. Although one or two of the earlier are of a dubious character, I have been enabled to verify many of the later by the documents in the Balnagown charter-chest; by the Kalendar of Ferne, a manuscript in the possession of the Duke of Sutherland, of which Mr. David Laing obligingly lent me the transcript made for the use of the Iona Club; and from other authentic sources. In an Appendix are printed a few interesting documents relative to the family history; and I have added to the whole some particulars on the same subject, for the purpose of connecting the Chronicle with the present time.

The Earls of Ross, in their connexion with the Lords of the Isles, have frequently formed a difficult and per-

plexed subject of investigation to the historian and antiquary ; whether any further light is thrown on it by this Chronicle, it is not for the editor to decide.

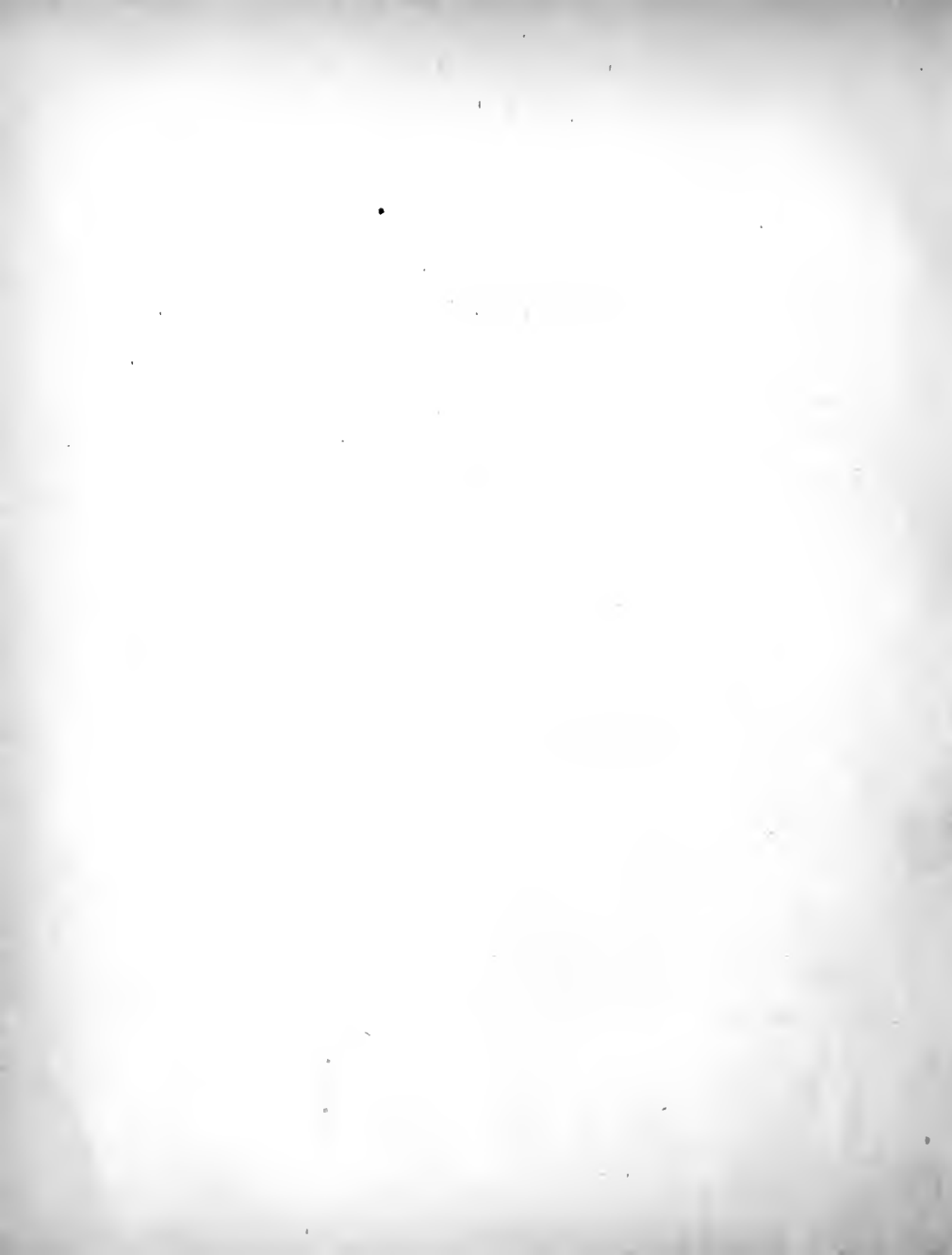
It only remains to be noticed, that in a reprint of Buchanan's Scottish Surnames, included in the third volume of a publication entitled *Miscellanea Scotica*, (Glasgow, 1820,) will be found a very imperfect abridgment of this Chronicle ; but from what source it was obtained, I have been unable to discover.

EDINBURGH, *March* 1850.

W. R. B.

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ANE BRIEVE CRONICLE OF THE EARLIS OF ROSS.

IN the yeir of God 1272 yeiris, Alexander the Third, King of Scottis, passit with his Laddy Queene Margaret, accompanyit with many nobillis and barones of Scotland, to London, to the coroneatioun of King Edward Langschanks, King of England, brother to the said King Alexander's wyffe; and on the assumptioun day of our Ladie in the same yeir ane thousand twa hundreth threscor and twelf yeiris, upon the sixteine day of November, was the coranatioun of the said king Edward at Londoun with great triumph. At this tyme, thair was ane Normand, ane Frenchman, callit Dougall Duncansone, in the said King Edwardis hous, of mervillous strenth, and had sic craft in wrasling, that he cuist all men that assilzeit him, netheles he was finallie wanquishit be Farq^r Ross, ane Scotisman. The forsaid King Alexander, for his notabill wassilage, gaue to the said Farq^r the erldome of Ross. Of

this Farq^r discendit fyve erlis, being Ross of surname, vi⁵^t Farq^r the first, Williame the second, Williame the third, Hew the fourt, and William the fift ; but the sixt erle was namit Walter Ross, utherwayis Leslie, quha maryit the said fift erle of Ross his dochter, callit Euphame Ross. This Walter Ross alias Leslie was ane nobill, valjeant man, quha made great service to the King of Scotland, and soucht to his rewarde the heretrix of Ross, and callit himself Walter Ross alias Leslie, or ellis the said Euphame wald not mary him. The said Walter Ross alias Leslie, begat on the said Euphame Ross, onne sone callit Alexander, quha was callit Alex^r Ross als lang as his mother leivid, and thairefter was callit Alex^r Leslie ; quha was maryit on Duke Robert Steuart, governor of Scotland, his dochter, and begat with her onne dochter callit Marie, quha deyit virgin. Thairefter was Alexander Ila and Johne Ila earlis of Ross. The said Williame, quhilk was the fyft erll of Ross, hade two dochters, the eldest, Eupham Ross, maryit on Walter Ross alias Leslie as said is. The uther maryit on Donald of the Iles, quha strak the batell of Harlaw, in Garyeoch, up on Sanct James evin in the yeir of God ane thousand four hundreth and ellevin yeires. In this battell was slaine nyne hundreth men, with two principal captaines, upon the syde of the said Donald of the

Ilis. The name of the two captaines wer Makillane and Malcometoche ; and upon the erll of Mar syde war slaine Alexander Ogilbie, James Skrimgour, and many uthers, as the cronicles declaires in the 16 buik and 17 cap :

Now, let us come to the first erll of Ross, callit Ferq^r Ross, quha made ane vow to God gif he overcame the forenamit Frenschman as God gaiff him the victorie, that he should found ane abbay of the first religious men that he should happin to meit efter his victorie, within the erldome of Ross, and swa thairefter obtainit the victorie.

He chancit to meitt with two quhite channonis in Galoway, ane callit Malcome, with ane uther brother, haiffing certaine of Sanct Ninianis relictis with thame ; quilk Malcome, with his brother, the said erll broucht with him in Ross, and foundit ane abbey of that order and religioun at Farne, besyd Kincardin in Stracharrin, quhair the situation thereof yit does appeare ; quairof the said Malcome was abbot fiftene yeiris, and thair he deceissit and was buryed there, quha was holden efter his death amongis the peopill as a sanct. And thairefter the said erll, with consent of the abbot and bretherene of the said place, for the more tranquilitie, peace, and quyetnes thairof, translated the said monasterie quhair now it presentlie standis, the xxvi yeir of the said Farq^r's erldome, and in the yeir of God

ane thousand two hundreth¹ In the qlk time, was the second abbot, Malcome of Nig. And the said erll leived erle fourtie yeiris, and deceissit in Tayne ane thousand two hundreth fiftie ane yeiris, in the beginning of the calendis of Feb: and succedit to the said Farq^r, William, his sone, and goodsone to the erll of Buchane, quha leived erll xxiiii yeiris, and deytit at erllis allane the 20 calends² of Juny ane thousand two hundreth threscor fourtene yeiris. In his tyme, was the third abbot, Machabeus Makhersin. Unto the quilk Williame succedit Williame his sone, quha was made erll at Witsonday the said yeir, quha leived erll fourtie nyne yeiris. In quhas time, Robert, erll of Carrike, made insurrexioun, pretending to the Croune of Scotland, and the king made confederatioun with the said Williame. That Hew, quha was aire to the said Williame, in respect he had gotten him with the king his sister, callit Mauld, ane sone callit Williame, the said Williame, father to the said Hew, should mary the said Mauld. Quhilk Williame, for his fidelitie to the Realme, was long imprisoned in England, yet he retereid happilie to his awin, and departed at Delnay in Ross, the xxviii day of Januar one

¹ This date remains not filled up in the M.S.

² Kalendar of Ferne.

thousand three hundreth twentie two yeiris. And in the time of this erll Williame were divers abbottis of Ferne, that is ane Mertein, ane channon in Quhythorne, nocht chosin, but presentit be the pryor of Quhythorne, and ane uther brother Johne of the said hous of Quhythorne intrusit nocht chosin. The third abbot, callit Mark Ross, sone to S^r Mark Ross, ane Knicht, nocht chosin be the convent of Ferne, but presentit be the said Pryor of Quhythorne. Qlk Mark abbot enterit in the monasterie two yeiris before the deceis of erll Williame the second, and fande the said place destitute of idonius personis, ornamentes, biggings, and uthers gudes. Quha in his tyme governit the said place and kirk weill, als weill in brothers to be ressavit as alreddie ressavit, and according to the ordour instructit thame diligentlie. In tyme of this Mark, abbot forsaid, Hew, goodsone to the King, was made erll of Ross upon St. Patrike his day, the xvii day of March, efter the deceis of his father, ane thousand thrie hundreth and twentie thrie yeiris,¹ and leived erll ten yeiris;² and for the defence of the realme depairtit in the conflict of Hildonhill besyde

¹ On 24th Sept., in the 18th year of his reign, (1323,) King Robert granted a Charter to Hugh of Ross of the Burgh of Crumbathy.—B.

² On 10th May, 1333, Hugh, Earl of Ross, granted a Charter to Hugh de Ross, his son, of the four Davoch lands of Rarichies.—B.

Berwike, the thretteen calendis of August ane thousand thrie hundreth threttie thrie yeiris. Unto quhome succedit Wilhame the third his sone, oy to King Robert Steuart, quha efter lang banishment in Norroway, came hame to his awin, and fand his men convertit to the obedience of England, quha manfullie gatherit ane great armie and invadit the toun of Pearth, quhair Englishmen was, and drew watter frome them, quhilk constraint thame to depart furth out of the said toun for ever. And as Judas Machabeus, ane strong man, persuit the wicket men within Israell quha was partakers of the comon welth unto the death, swa the said erll Williame perseuit the wicket people to the death; haiffing in reverence, favour, and kindness keeping, all zealous persons of the laws of God, religious and ecclesiasticall persones, helping, re-edifying, and supplying the biggings and manorplaces of his predecessors in sundrie pairtes of Ross, amplifying the same honorable. Quha was made erll efter returning from his exyle, upon Friday, before Whitsonday, ane thousand thrie hundreth and threttie sex. In quhas name, becaus the abbay kirk of Ferne bot of clay and rouch staine alutterlie rewinous appeirandlie, the said Wilhame being trublit of mynd with anguish, that the sepulture of his fathers, parentis, and quhair he tendit to be buryed quenever God

callit him out of this mortall lyffe, and that ignominontlie the dropis descending from heaven distilled in the chalice and upon the altar quhair the sacrament was ministrat, erll Williame with diligence callit to counsell Bischope Rodger, then Bischope of Ross, with the hail clergie thairof, and all the great men in Ross, with consent of Mark, then abbot of Ferne, and convent thairof. Swa it was concludit that seven bretherene that then wer in the place, willinglie oblist thameselffis to povertie, and to beg and thig through the country; the abbot onlie to remaine in the place for attending on the warke new then begun for bigging of the said kirk there of hewin staines. Swa the warke thairof was begun the second yeir efter the said Williame was maid erll of Ross, that is ane thousand thrie hundreth threttie aucht; and the abbot Mark deyit amangs his bretherene efter the bigging of the said warke, ane thousand three hundreth fiftie fyve, and was honorable buryit within the said kirk as he deservit. Unto the qlk Mark succedit Donald Pupill. In this maner, the said erll Wilhame the third, considering the channonis of Ferne had frie power of electione be Pape Urban the fourt, in quha's time they war foundit, and others fra the beginning of the said ordour, geving thame speciall priviledgis, the said erll, willing to keip all juris to the said religious

men, that nethar electioun nor presentatioun schould be had fra utheris, but within the said abbay, according to the institutioun of Augustin, that sum worthie persones be electit out of the bosome of the said place. Quhilk convent, religiouslie and duellie, as accordes, for thair interes, electit and presentit the said Donald abbot, quha refussit the samyne for the jure of presentation, quilk he had of Quhythorne, albeit not justlie ; quha shortlie efter his electioun in Ferne, quhen all the bretherene consentit him to be abbot, he, accompanyit with ane brother callit Johne Abernethie, * * * to Quhythorne to the Pryor thair of in his earrand of electioun ; quhair efter many ressonis and controversies, the Prior of Quhythorne and Convent thair of confirmit and approvit of the electioun of the said Donald, made at Ferne in the dayes of this erll Williame. And in the said abbot Donald his time, the stane warke of the said abbey kirk was endit, and the timber wark thair of be the supply of the said erll was finishit. This is that gude erll Williame,¹ doar and repairar of all the place of Ferne, quha grantit to the samyne for his saull and his predecessor, the kirk of Tarridie, in Ross, that was at his presentatioun, and obtenit consent of the abbay of Ferne thair-

¹ On 5th March 1355, Earl William granted a deed to the Abbey relieving it and its lands, &c. of payment of all taxes.—B.

upon of the Bishop and chapter of Ross, for quhas saull everie channon under great payne was appoyntit ilk day to say ane mess at the hie altar. Quilk Williame leived erll threttie five yeiris, and was bannischt in Norroway thrie yeiris, and deceissit at Dalny in Ross, the nynt of Februar ane thousand thrie hundreth thriescor ellevin yeiris.¹ Thair succedit the said abbot Donald, Adame Monilaw, quha deceissit at Ferne the tent day of September, ane thousand four hundreth and sevin yeiris. And in his tyme was ane Lord of Ross, ane nobill and valzeant man, callit Walter Leslie, quha maryit Euphame Ross, dochter to the said erll Williame, repairer of the forsaid abbay of Ferne, quha depairtit at Pearth the penult day of Februar ane thousand thrie hundreth fourscore ane yeiris; and to him succedit Alexander Leslie his sone, erll, quha maryit ane dochter of Duik Robert, Governor of Scotland, and gat with hir ane dochter callit Marie, that deceissit ane virgin; and the said Alexander deceissit at Dingwall in his young age, the aught² day of May,

¹ On 13th April 1350, Earl William, with consent of his sister Marjory, Countess of Caithness, granted a letter of tailzie of the earldom, &c. in favour of Hugh de Ross, his brother, provided he himself died without heirs male of his body.—B.

²Kalendar of Ferne.

ane thousand four hundreth and two yeiris.) And efter that Thormas Kethirnathe, send by the pryor of Quhythorne, stude as abbot in the ressaiving and expending of the fruits of Ferne for ane certaine tyme, and becaus he sped not as he wald, he retyred hame ; he was supponit to be ane sensuall and fleshlie hooremaister, but what his end was it is uncertaine. And efter this was ane abbot Finlaw, oy of S^r William Feriar, Vicar of Tayne, quha for ane certaine tyme governit the place in ressaiving and expending the gudes thair of ; he theikit the kirk of Ferne, and deyit thair the fifteen of October 1436 yeiris. (And thairefter Alexander Ila was erll of Ross and Justice for the north ; he was valzeant in all his actes, and lovinglie governit the erldome in tranquillitie and peace, and deyit at Dingwall, and was buryit at the channerie of Ross, the aucht day of May, ane thousand four hundreth fourtie and nyne reiris. He maryit Euphame, dochter to the said Walter Leslie, quhairby he was erll of Ross. King James the first, 1426, beheaded James Campbell for the murther of Johne of the Iles, a man dearlie belovit of his people. In the next yeir following, quhilk was efter the incarnatioun 1427, Alexander, Lord of the Iyllis, was ar-reistit be the king at Inverness, for that he was accusit to be ane sucourer and mainteaner of theivs and robberis in

the countrie. But for as meikle as he promissit in tyme coming to reforme the former misdemeanours, and was pardonit and set at libertie, quhairoff ensewit great trubill immediatlie efter ; for schortlie upon his deliverance he gatherit a power of wickit scapthriftis, alias reivars and sorneris, and with the same coming into Inverness, brunt the town and beseig it the castell, inforceing with all diligence upon the same, till he was advertised that the king was coming towards him with ane great power, quhairupon he fled incontinent to the Iyllis. Finallie, haiffing knowledge that a great number of people lay daylie in wait to tak him, that they might put him to the kingis handis, he came disaguysed in ane pure array to Holyrudhous, and thair finding the king on Paschday devoutly in the kirk at his prayeres, he fell down on his kneis before him, and besocht him of grace, for his saik that rose as that day frome deith unto lyffe. At request of the Queene, the King pardonit him of lyffe, but he appointit Williame Douglas, erll of Angus, to haiff the custodie of him, and that within the castell of Tantallon, that no trubill should ryse be his meanis thairefter. His mother, Euphame, dochter to Walter sumtyme erll of Ross, was also committit in warde in Sanct Colme's Insch, becaus it was knowin that she solicited her sone Alexander to rebell in

manner as is aforesaid against the King. Nocht long efter, Donald Ballache, brother to the said Lord Alex^r of the Iyllis, came with ane great power of men unto Lochquhaber. The erlls of Mar and Caithnes came with sic number of thair people as they could raise to defend the countrie against the invasion of these hylandmen and Donald, at Inverlochie, where the earle of Caithness was slaine, and the earle of Marr discomfited. Herewith did Donald Balloch return [with a very] great pray of goods and riches into the Isles. The King was sorely moved with the newis hereof, came with a great armie unto Dunstaffage, purposing with all speed to pass into the Iyllis. The clanns and other chiefmen [of the hylands] advertissit hereof, cam to Dunstaffage and submitted thairselffis to the King, excusing their offence (for that as they alledgit) the said Donald had constrained them against their willis to pes with him in the last journey. All these clans upon this thair excuse were admitted to the King's favour, and sworn to persew the said Donald unto the death. Shortly heirefter the said Donald fled into Ireland, where he was slain, and his head send be ane Odo, a great Lord in Ireland, (in quhas countrie he lurked,) as a present to the King, that lay as than at Striveling. There were also three hundred of his adherents takin, and by

the King's commandment hanged for thair offence within three weeks space efter his fleeing into Ireland, betwixt the years 1454 and 1455 years. There was ane callit Donald, erle of Ross, in the tyme that the erll Douglas came out of England invading the Scottismen, he tint the field; his brother Archibald Douglas was slaine, the Lord of Ormond, beand Douglas, was hurte and tane. The said earle of Douglas fled to Dunstaffage, quhair finding the said Donald, earle of Ross and Lord of the Iylis, he procurit to him, by nature inclynit and ready enough to follow such counsel, to mak war in his favour against the King, and after he had set him anes on warke, he got him back again into England. Donald wastit not only the King's possessions that lay near to Dunstaffage, but also passing through Ardgyl, did much hurt in all places where he came. He invadit so the Ile of Arran, and chased the Bischope of Lismore, constraining him to take sanctuarie. This done, he entered into Lochaber, and so into Murrayland, where he burnt the town of Inverness, wan the castle by a guileful trayne.[†] Meantyme the erll of Ormond after he recoverit of his hurte, as Boetius writes, was presented into the King, and efter he had remained in prison a long tyme he was at lenth beheaded. Moreover, the Countess Beatrice she saw no hope left that the erll Douglas

schould recover his former estate, came to the King and submitted himself, laying all the blame on the erll, quha had procured hir unto such unlawful marriage with him, being hir former husband's brother. The King ressavit hir richt courteouslie, and gave to her the Baronie of Balknie to meantean therewith hir estate. Shortly efter the Countes of Ross fled frome hir husband, and came to the King for feare of hir husband's crueltie, which partly she had taisted alreddie. The King, because he had made the marriage betwixt hir and hir husband, assyned her forthwith sufficient revenues also for the maintenance of her estate.

In the yeir of God 1455, the King acquitted the Isles, and gat obedience thereof that they war in reddines to serve the wares, speciallie Donald of the Iyllis and erle of Ross, who had befor joyned himself in confedderacie with the erles of Douglas and Crawfurde against the King, and had taken in his hand the Kingis house and castell of Inverness, (as befor ye haiff herd,) naming himself King of the Iyllis. Nevertheless the King at the lenth gave pardon to the said Donald for trew obedience in tyme coming, providing he wald not enter to his former deilling of evill doings.

King James the Seconde was slaine with the wadge of

a gunn at Roxburgh, in the yeir of his lyffe xxix, and of his reign 24, and efter the incarnation 1460. Then did Regentis governe the realme.

Moreover, shortly efter Donald of the Iyllis and erll of Ross being reconceilled, began new to his old maneris, spoilzeing and harrying the hail countrie of Atholl, and tuik the erll and countess thereof captives to the Iyllis. The saids regentis preparing ane armie to pass on the said Donald, trew advertisement cam that the said Donald was striken with madness, and lost all his ships in the sea, and the spuizies that he tuik. The erll of Atholl and his lady war restored ; and the said Donald himself was slain in the castell of Inverness, be ane clairshear that playit on ane clersha, in the year 1461. The clershear said he wald play ane spring that he never herd befoir nor yit efter, and so cutted his throat, for the said Donald slew his fether. The said Donald's son was callit Lord of the Iyllis and erll of Ross.

In July, the fourt day, in the yeir of God 1476, ane Parliament was haldin at Ed^r in the quhilk John, Lord of the Iyllis and erll of Ross, was attendid pairtly for his awin evill deids, but maist speciallie for the defaultis of his father, Donald, Lord of the Iyllis. In May, in the yeir of God 1477, the King raissit ane puissant armie of

the maist abill men upon the north side of the watter of Forth, to pursew the Lord of the Iyllis baith be sea and land. The erll of Crawford was made admirall of the sea; and the erll of Atholl, the King's uncle by his father, was livetennent of the armie be land. Bot such meanis was used be the erll of Atholl, that the Lord of the Iyllis humbled himselff to the King's pleasor upon certaine conditiouns; and thairupon, in the beginning of July next ensewing, the said Lord of the Iyllis came to the Parliament at Edinburgh, and thair was the agreement made and confirmit betwixt the King and him. He resyuit in the Kingis handis all the richt he had to the erlldome of Ross. Swa the King came to the erlldome of Ross, the lands of Kinteer and Knapdles. Q^{lk} erlldome the King annexit to the crowne, and pardonit him and his servands of all offences befor that day committed, and invested him of new in the lordschip and signorie of the Iyllis, and uthers his landis nocht released, to hold the same of the King be service of warde and relieff. The King also gaiff to the erll of Atholl for his diligence shewed in reducing the said Lords of Iyllis to ordour, the lands and forestes of Clonie.

The said Johne Ila was erll of Ross and Lord of the Iyllis enduring his lyfthyme, and that gracioslic by the King's gift.

In time of the said John^x, was Abbot Finlay Mackfaid, (whose succession by the King's desire was called Fearn's to this day. The first was Mr. John Fearn, father to Alex^r Fearn, of Balnasirach,) who honourably held the Abbay of Fearn, in his time in guidness and rest, and did many good and laudable works. He bigget Saint Michael's Isle on the south side of the kirk. He founded the Dortour; he bigget the cloister; he brought home an tabernacle, and Lettron of brass, the organs, with the challices, vestments, and sundry other ornaments out of Flanders, and payed all the same himself. He lived Abbot forty-four years; he virtuously governed his abbay and convent as well young as old, and celebrating their divine service night and day; he deceast among his brethern at Fern, on St. Boniface day, the 17th day of Mareh 1485 yeares. Unto him succeeded Abbot Thomas M'Culloch, who lived Abbot 31 yeares; he bigged furth the Dortour, and was sinistrously and wrongously put out of the Abbay be Andrew Stuart, Bishop of Caithness; the said Bishop of Caithness being resavit with the Abbot of Fearn, well treated with him, he caused ane Nottary give a false instrument to Rome, and brought home brevies on the same, and made himself Abbot and Bishop of Fearn; through the whilk the said Abbot Thomas M'Culloch took great displeasure, because he was master-

fully put out of Fearn ; and dwelt in Midd Genie, where he bigged ane chappel to himself so long as he lived, to serve his God, and got nothing of the Abbacy of Fearn but the Miln and Mid Geny, whereof he made a Mans ; and the said Thomas M'Culloch dyed at Fearn, the 17th day of Jully 1516 yeares. And after him succeeded the said Bishop Andrew Stuart of Caithness, who was the first Commendator of Fearn granted be the See of Rome, who lived undoubted Abbot of Fern ane year, and dyed at Skibo, the 17th day of June 1517, and was buried in the Quire of the Cathedral Church of Dornoch. And after him succeeded Mr. Patrick Hamiltown, who was accused for heresie be James Beaton, Archbishop of St. Andrews, Primat of Scotland, with the counsell of the hail clergie of Scotland, and was decerned to be burnt, and delivered in the seculars hands for diverse articles of heresie, grounded upon Luther's laws, viz' :—That man had no free will ; that man is in sin as long as he lives ; that children incontinent after their baptism are sinners ; all Christians that be worthy to be called Christians do know that they are in grace ; no man is justified by works, but by faith only ; sound works makes not an good man, but an good man makes good works ; that faith, hope, and charity are so knitt, that he that has one has the rest, and he that

wants one of them, wanteth the rest ; upon the whilk articles the said Archbishop gave sentence definitive at the Metropolitan kirk of St. Andrews, the last day of February 1527, where the said Mr. Patrick Hamiltoun was burnt in presence of Gavin, Bishop of Glasgow ; George, Bishop of Dunkell ; John, Bishop of Brechin ; William, Bishop of Dunblane ; Patrick, Prior of St. Andrews ; David, Abbote of Arbrothok ; George, Abbot of Dumfermling ; Alex^r Abbote of Cumbuschkynoch ; Henry, Abbot of Lindores ; John, Prior of Pittenwemyss ; the Dean and Sub-Dean of Glasgow ; Mr. Hugh Spence, Thomas Ramsay, and Allan Meldrum. He lived Abbot ten years, and after him succeeded Abbot Donald Denoon, who lived Abbot 15 years and 5 months, and governed the place in tranquillity and rest durenceing his time, and deceased at Fearn, the 9th day of February 1540. And to him succeeded Robert Carnecors, Bishop of Ross, who lived Abbot 5 years, and decest in the Chanonry of Ross, where he was burried, the last day of November 1545 years ; and to him succeeded James Carnecors, who demitted the said Abbacy in favors of Nicolas Ross, then Provost of Tain, who lived Abbot 22 years, and dyed at Fearn, the 17th day of September 1569 years, and was burryed in the north side of the Quire of Fearn. And after him succeeded Mr. Thomas

Ross, Parson of Alnes, who was provyded to the said Abbacie, three years before said Nicholas departed, as the said Mr. Thomas Ross's provision declares at more length, of the date at Edinburgh, the 12th day of October 1566 yeares; who theikit the Dortour of Fearn after it was burnt be negligence of Hutcheon M'Culloch, now in Reiffadden; and he made a hall, chambers, cellars, pantrie, and kitchen of the same, in respect the old house was decayed; he caused to joist and loft the chamber and pantrie, caused make such turnpieks and easements in Fearn to the hall, cellars, and vaults, &c. The said Mr. Thomas Ross caused build the litle chamber beside the Dortour, joisted, lofted, and theikit the same; whilk Dortour and litle chamber was burnt be the said Hutcheon 16 years before the said Mr. Thomas was Abbote. (Notwithstanding the said Mr. Thomas Ross gart bigg in Fearn two stone barns and the miln with stone and clay, he biggit an new miln bewest the place of Fearn, which was going, and won what was worth the bigging of the same, till Alex^r Ross of litle Tarrell molested him ere he departed, and the miln decayed in default of beiting and holding up of the same. The said Alex^r Ross of litle Tarrell departed, (as God knows,) at litle Tarrell, the fourth day of January 1567 years, and was burryed in Tain, the 5th day of the same

moneth. The said Mr. Thomas Ross built in Tain divers houses, yards, barns ; thereafter the said Mr. Thomas Ross for the most part of ten years, being boasted be Alexander Ross of Balnagowan, was out of Ross, and dwelt in Murray, in the town of Forres, where he conquest lands to build on both the sides of the road, and some field land, and made great expenses in Murray in householding, which he rather to have made in Ross among his own friends if they had suffered him to remain among them, and payed him his own liveing ; albeit none held his liveing from him, but the surname of Ross. It is not remembered be Alex. Ross, old laird of Balnagown, how the said Mr. Thomas Ross served Mr. Henry Sinclair, Bishop of Ross, for seven yeares gratis, and sought nothing for his fee and reward, but that the said Bishop would be so good of his goodness as to give the said laird of Balnagown his chief, for the singular love he buire to him for the time, certain steiding and fishings, which was upon and about the said Balnagown his lands, and was most meet for him, yea meeter for him than for any except the laird of Fowlis, who had some lands adjacent thereto, viz., the Davoch of Carbsdale, and offered great sums of money for the same ; notwithstanding the said Bishop caused the said Mr. Thomas Ross send for the said laird of Balnagown to come to



Edinburgh, and to receive such lands as after follows, in feu gratis, viz., Ardgay, ane Davoch of lands of great bounds of gressings; the Kirktown of Kincardine; yaire, and salmond fishing of the same, which will make yearly ane last of salmond or thereby; the town of Eddertoun and pendicles thereof, which will hold twenty-three ploughs, with fair meadows and wards adjacent thereto, with the miln of Kincardin, which is worth twenty-four bolls victuall. The hail lands above written will occupie twenty-four ploughs, besides shealls and grassings; whilk land, grassings, and fishings above written, when the said Bishop gave them gratis to him, he desyred the said laird to recompence the said Mr. Thomas Ross for his fee and reward, which the Bishop should have given him, in respect he gave the said lands gratis to the laird of Balnagown at the said Mr. Thomas his desire; notwithstanding the said Bishop took from the good Sherriff of Cromarty, called Alex^r Urquhart, three thousand marks for worse land and less of profite, who held the said Bishop in his house of Cromarty ane half year well treated and entertained, in respect his own house of Chanonry was holden from him by Mr. Donald Fraser, Archdean of Ross, and such reward as the said Mr. Thomas Ross got from the said laird of Balnagowan, it is known, viz., evil deeds for

guid, he held and holds ane part of his liveing from him, and put him out of his father's Roume called Culnaha and Annat, he rests to him of his liveing of Fearn a great sum of money, viz., four thousand pounds Scots. George Ross, the young laird of Balnagowan, was resting to the said Abbot three thousand merks, which the said Abbot forgave him for ane petty grassing in the Highlands, called Garvarie, above Kincardin, in Strathcharron. The said Mr. Thomas Ross deceast in Tain, the fourteenth day of February 1595 yeares, and was burryed at Fearn in St. Michael's Isle.¹

ANE BREUE DISCOURSE OF THE ERLIS OF ROSS.

Item, the first erll of Ross, beand Ross of surname, was callit Ferq^v quha gat the said erldome threw his manfull fechtand with ane Normand and Frenchman at London, as the Cronicles testifies, in King Alex^{r's} tyme, in the yeir of God ane thousand twa hundreth thrie scor twelff yeiris.

The second erll was callit Williame Ross, goodsone to the erll of Buchane, callit Johne Cumming, quha leived twentie-four yeirs, and deyit at erllis Allane.

¹ The remainder of this part of the Chronicle does not appear in the Balnagown MS.

The third was callit Williame Ross, quha maryed the King's sister, quha bure him Hew Ross.

The fourt erll callit Hew Ross, sone to the said Mald. The said Hew maryit my Lord Grhame's dochter. She bure to him William the fift erll of Ross, and Hew the first laird of Balnagowne and Rarichies.

The fyft erll callit Williame Ross, quha had ane auld dochter callit Euphame Ross, quha was maryed upon Walter Leslie, ane nobill valzeant man, quha mad great service to the King of Scotland, and sought to his reward bot the heretrix of Ross, callit himselff Walter Ross alias Leslie, or ellis the said Euphame wald not mary him. The said Walter Ross alias Leslie, he gat on hir ane sone callit Alexander, and ane dochter callit Euphame. This Alex^r quha was callit Alex^r Ross als lang as his mother Euphame leivit, thairefter was callit Alex^r Leslie. He maryed Duke Robert Steuart his dochter, governor of Scotland, and begot on hir ane dochter callit Marie, quha deyit ane virgin.

And the said Alex^r deceissit at Dingwall in his young age, the 8th of May, the yeir of God ane thousand four hundreth and twa yeiris.

The said Euphame maryed Alexander Ila, quha threw hir was made erll of Ross, and Justice fra Forth north. He was valzeant in all his actes, and lovinglie governit

the erldome in peace and tranquillitie. He begot on hir Johne of the Iyllis, ane man dearlie belovit of his people, quha was murtherit be James Campbell as said is. The said Alexander Ila deyit at Dingwall, the 8th of May, the yeir of God 1449.

Thairefter Alex^r brother to the Johne, and sone to the said Alex^r and Euphame, was made erll, quha for his enormities was comitted to warde at Tantallon, at requeist of the Queene, as the Cronicle can testifie, and his mother, also Euphame, dochter to Walter, sumtyme erll of Ross, was comittit to warde in Sanct Colmes' Insche, becaus it was knawin that scho solicited her sone Alex^r to rebell against the King.

Efter him was Donald, erll of Ross and Lord of the Iyllis, in the yeir of God 1454, quha for his enormities and evill deids, sundrie tymes was attentit, and sundrie tymes anulled, at last was slaine be ane Irischman, ane clershear, in the yeir of God 1461.

Efter him his sone Johne, Lord of the Illis and erll of Ross, quha in ane Parliament haldin at Edinburgh, the fourt of July, in the yeir of God 1476, was accusit pairtlie for his awin defaultes, and most speciallie for ye defaultes of his father, Donald, Lord of the Iyllis; and thair be agrea-ment betwixt the King and him maid and confirmed, he resignit in the Kingis hands all the richt he had to the

erldome of Ross, qlk erldome the King annexit to the crowne, and pardonit him of all offencis befor that day committit be him or his servandis, as the Cronickle at moir lenth will shew.

ANE BREIFE DISCOURSE OF THE LAIRDES OF
BALNAGOWN CALLIT ROSS.

The first laird that was upon Rariches and Balnagown, beand Ross of surname, was callit Hew Ross, sone to Hew Ross, the fourt erll of Ross, in the yeir of God 1333 yearis.¹

Efter him was Williame Ross, laird of Balnagown.²

Efter him was Hew Ross.

Thairefter was Wilhame Crunblache,³ he had to his wyfe the Lord Livingstonis dochter, quha biggit the brig⁴ of Alnes. Scho bure him

Walter Cluganach,⁵ quha had to his wyffe Paul McTyres dochter callit Katherene, quhairby the Ross are callit Clanlanders. Scho bure to him

¹ The first charters by Hugh Earl of Ross to Hugh his son, are three in number, of the lands of Rariches in Ross-shire, and of Filorth and others in Aberdeenshire, and are all dated 10th May 1333.—B.

² This William is omitted in the Deuchar M.S.

³ Precept for William Ross in Inverchasly, dated 9th May 1384.—B.

⁴ "Kirk" in Deuchar MS.

⁵ Precept for infesting Walter Ross as heir to William Ross in Rariches, by Euphame Countess of Ross, 8th April 1394.—B.

Huchone Ross, quha maryed the erll of Sutherlandis dochter, callit Jonet Sutherland, hir mother beand the erll of Orknayis dochter, callit Helene Sinclair. Scho bure him Johne Ross laird, Hucheone Ross, Mr. Williame Ross, and Mr. Thomas Ross.

Johne Ross,¹ laird of Balnagown, maryit Christian M'Loid, dochter to Torkill M'Loid of Lewis. Scho bure to him Alex^r M'Dods and Gallicallim.

Alexander, laird of Balnagown, was maryed on Doroie Sutherland, quha had the _____ of the field Aldchorvis, quhairin hir husband was slaine.² Scho bure to him S^r David Ross, laird of Balnagown.

S^r David Ross,³ laird of Balnagown, was maryed on the Laird of Innerugies dochter, callit Helenor Keith, ane guid woman. Scho bure to him Walter Ross laird, William Ross, and Hutcheone Ross. Efter hir deceis,⁴ maryed the Duke Albaneis dochter, quha bure no bairnes.⁵

¹ Precept by Alexander Ile, Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles, for infest- ing John Ross as heir to Hugh his father in Barichies, &c.—B.

² April 1487, Kalendar of Ferne.

³ On 18th October, in the 3d year of his reign, James IV. as tutor and governor of his brother, then James Duke of Ross, granted a precept for infesting David Ross as heir to his grandfather, John Ross, in the lands of the lordship of Balnagowne, &c.—B.

⁴ She died May 1519. Kalendar of Ferne.

⁵ He died 20th May 1527. *Ibid.*

Walter Ross, laird of Balnagown, was maryed on the laird of Grauntis dochter; callit Marion Graunt. Scho bure bure to him Alex^r Ross, laird of Balnagown, and ane Hutcheon Ross. Thairefter Walter Ross was slaine in Tayne.¹

Alexander Ross,² laird of Balnagown, was maryed on Janet Sinclair, the erll of Cathnes dochter, quha bure to him ane sone callit George, and sindrie dochters.³ Thairefter maryed Katharene M^cKenzie,⁴ quha buir to him Nicolas and Malcolme, and sindrie dochters.⁵

George Ross,⁶ laird of Balnagown, maryed Marjorie Campbell,⁷ dochter to the laird of Caduell, quha bure to

¹ On 12th May 1528. *Ibid.*

² On 26th September 1546, Queen Mary granted a charter to Alexander Ross of Balnagowne and Janet Sinclair his wife, in conjunct fee and liferent, and to their heirs in fee, of the lands of Easter Rarichies, &c. Sasine dated 21st and 22d June 1548. On 7th May 1550, he obtained a charter of various parts of the Abbacy of Ferne from James Cairncors, Commendator of Ferne. On 15th June 1563, he obtained a feu of other parts of the Abbacy of Ferne from Henry Bishop of Ross; and on 27th December 1571, Thomas Ross, Commendator of Ferne and Provost of the Collegiate Kirk of Tain, granted a charter of other parts of the Abbacy to Alexander Ross of Balnagowne.—B.

³ On 11th, 13th, 14th, and 15th May 1560, George Ross was infeft in the lordship of Balnagowne, &c., on charter by his father.—B.

⁴ She died at Daan, 12th April 1592. Kalendar of Ferne.

⁵ He died at Ardmore, and was buried in Fearn, 25th October 1592. Deuchar MS.

⁶ On 9th January 1567, Mr. John Douglas, Rector of the Universitie of St. Andrews, granted a receipt for £32, 2s. Scots, as board for George Ross, "for all the time that he remaint student with me in the New Colledge."—B.

⁷ She died 6th October 1612.—*Ibid.*

him ane sone callit David Ross, now of Balnagoune, and sindrie dochteris.¹

David Ross maryed first Jeane Gordoun,² dochter to the erll of Sutherland, quha bure to him no bairnes.

Thairefter maryed Anabell Murray, dochter to my Lord Tillibairne, quha bure to him sindrie bairnes, quhairof *non leivis bot on son* callit David Ross.³

David Ross, laird of Balnagown, married my Lord Lovatt's daughter, callit Marie Fraser, who bure to him severall children. Bot of meall children non caim to perfection bot David Ross, now leard of Balnagown, who married Ladie Ann Steuart, daughter to James earle of Murray.⁴

[In the Deuchar MS., there is the following account of the daughters of George Ross.]

The said George of Balnagowan, marryed Marjory

¹ George Ross died 14th February 1615. Kalendar of Ferne. For the names, &c., of the daughters, see the next page.

² This lady is by Sir R. Gordon called Mary. She died at 23, (A.D. 1605.) "A virtuous and comely lady, of ane excellent and quick witt."—Earld. of Sutherland, p. 252.

³ These words in italics, and the remainder of this part of the MS., are in a different and later hand. David (2) was born on 18th October 1615. He fought at the battle of Worcester, and died a prisoner in the Tower, 29th December 1653.

⁴ David (3) was born 14th September 1644, and a brother, Alexander, on 13th September 1645. Their mother died on 29th December 1646. Deuchar MS.

Campbell, daughter to the laird of Calder, who bure him ane son called David Ross, and sundry other bairnes, viz., Jean, Catherin, Murrell, Isobell. Jean was lady of Kintail, and bure Colin Mackenzie, the first earl of Seaforth, and twa daughters. The elder daughter was lady O'Neill; the second daughter lady Rae, and bure him John, now lord of Rae. The said Colin, earl of Seaforth, marryit Dame Margaret Seaton, who bure two daughters; Jean, who was first countess of Caithness, and bure the earl of Caithness, thereafter marryed lord Duffus, and bure a son to him. Catherin, the second daughter of the said George Ross of Balnagowan, marryed Sir William Sinclair of May, and bure Sir James Sinclair of May, who marryed Elizabeth Lesly, daughter to the lord Lindores, who bure Sir James Sinclair of May, that now is.

¹ Thair was thrie sones of the King of Denmark, callit Gwine, Loid, and Leandres, quha came be sea out of Denmarke and landit in the north parts of Scotland, to conquest lands to themselfis be the sworde. Gwine conquest the Hieland brayes of Cathness. Loid conquest the Lewes, of quhome M'Loid hus is descendit. Lendres conquest

¹ The remainder is the conclusion of the Balnagown MS.

Braychat be the sworde ; qlk the erll of Sutherland, and the lairdis of Duffus and Foullis, bruikis now within the parochin of Creich, Stracharron, and Strahoykill, and Frierwatter ; his hall beand within Glenbeg, qlk was and is the laird of Balnagoune his heritage.

His son Tyre, and his oy Paull M^cTyre,¹ followed Lendres footsteps ; sua of this Lendres rase up the surname Clan Lendres, becaus Paul M^cTyre M^cLendres maried his dochter, callit Catharene, upon the Laird of Balnagoune, callit Walter Ross, alias Clugganache.² The foresaid thrie men Gwine, Loid, and Lendres, had no richt of the Kings of Scotland of ony thing they conquest. Bot the Lard of Balnagown, and his posterite, halds of the Kings of Scotland, as thair evidentis proportis.

This Paul M^cTyre was ane takand man, and conquest all that he had through capitanrie and sworde. He reft Strahocill, Stratharron, and Fleschillis, with mekill of Sutherland ; caused Cathnes pay him mekill black maill. It was said that Paul M^cTyre himselff tuike nyne scoir kyne yeirlye out of Caithnes for his black maill, sua lang as he himselff might travell. This Paul M^cTyre had two sones,

¹ On the Sunday after St. Michael's day, 1365, Hugh Ross, Lord of Fyforth, granted a charter to Paul M^cTyre of the lands of Tutumtarok, Turuak, Amat, and Langwall, in Strathoykel.—B. See Appendix.

² This is confirmed by Sir R. Gordon.—Earldom of Sutherland, p. 36.

viz^t Murthow Reoche and Gillespik. The said Murthow was sent to Caithnes with ane hoist to tak up custom kyne. The cuntrie folks of Caithnes assemblit themselfis togeidder at the Spittalhill, and slew the said Murthow Reoch besyde the . . . heidloch, betwixt Yule and Candlemes. His brother, Gillespik, heirand of his brother's slauchter, left the cuntrie and went home to Ross to his father, quha was foundand ane hous in Creich. He deyit for displeasur of his sone. Thairefter his friends send for the said Murthow Reoche his baines.

This Murthow Reoche, of quhome now ye do reid,
 Throw tyrannie wes slane as ye heir tell :
 The eldest sone of Paull M^cTyre, indeid,
 Was buryed in Caithnes, quhair the caise befell.
 Quhen frendis thairefter tuik theme to counsell,
 And send in haist ane young man for his baines,
 Quha comming hame with them on Helmsdail,
 Drownit thairin he and they all at aines.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

[The following is a Petition addressed by William Earl of Ross to Robert II., in which he states the circumstances of his being deprived of his estates in Buchan, and of the earldom of Ross passing to Walter Leslie, the husband of his daughter, instead of to Walter Ross of Balnagown, his brother and heir-male. It is dated at Edinburgh, 24th June 1371, and appears to be the document referred to by Mr. Robertson, in a note appended to "The Lives of the Lindsays," Vol. I. p. 422, and of which a copy is stated to be in the Library at Panmure.]

Excellentissimo principi ac domino suo Reuerendissimo domino Roberto dei gratia Regi Scottorum et suo bono consilio vester humilis nepos Willielmus comes de Ross sub hac forma conqueritur videlicet quod quondam bone memorie dominus meus Rex predecessor vester domino Waltero de Lesly militi dedit omnes terras meas et tene-

menta et eciam fratris mei Hugonis de Ross infra Buchaniam existentes me et fratre meo predicto non requisitis non citatis non in iure confessis nec in iudicio conuictis Et cum constauerat de saysina dictarum terrarum sic predicto domino Waltero exarupto et sine juris processu deliberata Scripsi domino Episcopo Brechynensi tunc cancellario Scocie pro vna littera attornatoria de capella Regis continente has personas videlicet dominos Robertum Senescallum Scocie Thomam comitem de Marr Willielmum de Keth milites et Willielmum de Meldrum Et singulis eorum singulariter vnam literam clausam supplicatoriam vt digmentur esse actornati mei ad petendum a domino meo Rege terras meas et fratris mei predicti ad plegium vna etiam cum vna litera domino meo Regi directa et alia domine Eufamie comitisse Morauię sorori mee super eadem materia Et cum predictis literis presentandis singularitum vt decuit oneraui dominum Johannem de Gamery canonicum Cathanensem clericum meum Cui itineranti occurens Johannes de Aberkerdor dicens se armigerum dicti domini Walteri ipsum arestauit armigerum dicti clerici nostri atrociter verbarauit quia magistrum suum ad caudem equi sui noluit ligare ipsum de omnibus literis suis spoliauit et eum ad nemora et loca deuia deduxit de cuius arestacione predictus clericus meus deliberari non

potuit quousque manucepisset sibi sex marcas sterlingorum persolendas infra tres septimanas plegiis domino Roberto rectore de Forglen et Willielmo Byset de hovthyrilis Et fecit dictum clericum meum iurare super sancta dei evangelia presente domino Cristino vicario de forg^o quod non presentaret aliquam literam de eisdem alicui nisi pixidem cum dictis literis suo sigillo sigillatam domino Waltero de Lesly domino suo et quod intraret se prisonarium predicto domino Waltero cum dicta pixide sigillata et sua litera tanquam arastatum suum quo facto predictus clericus sic deliberatus laboravit ad dominum suum Episcopum Aberdonensem conquerendo et ad dominum Willielmum de Keth qui ipsum de solutione pecunie predictae resolvebant Et ab hinc venit ad me in Ross nuncios ista Et hoc facto sciens quod per medias personas terras meas ad plegium habere non potui laboravi in propria persona ad dominum meum Regem vsque villam de Aberden ad petendum terras meas ad plegium quas habere non potui nisi concederem predicto domino meo Regi pro vsu Johannis de Logy totum ius meum del platan de forfar cujus concessione sub illa spe facta vocatus ad prandium cum domino meo Rege pecii responsum negociorum meorum post prandium a quo post auisationem suam missa fuit mihi in ecclesia vna magna sedula questionum por

responso allegatis in eadem pluribus actoritatibus iuris
siuilibus qua lecta dixi quod litis contestationem facere
nolui cum domino meo Rege nec pro illa causa ibi veni
et tunc licencia nulla petita laboraui versus Ross nec
plus cum dicto domino meo Rege loquebar vsque aduen-
tum suum apud Inuernys Set domina Margareta de
Logi tunc Regina cum suo consilio audiens me sic reuer-
sum non concordatum cum domino Waltero neque cum
ea precipuit et mandauit corpus meum arestari et in car-
cere deponi et terras meas vniuersas in manibus domini
regis saysiri et recognosci Set dominus meus Rex meum
corpus arestari noluit pati quoquomodo set bene omnes
terras meas in manibus suis saysiri Et quando dominus
meus Rex venit ad villam de Inuernys inuenit me apud
Inuernys sine aliqua terra vel dominio toto comitatu
meo Rossie in manibus suis saysisato et recognito vnacum
omnibus terris meis morauie nulla causa quare mihi os-
tensa nec causam scire potui nisi quod amicitiam domini
mei Regis non haberem quousque cum domino Waltero
concordatus fuisset Et in crastino conuocatis baronibus
et eorum sectoribus in iusticiaria ego neque sector meus
non comparuimus pro comitatu Rossie vt satis constabat
domino Willielmo de dyschyngton tunc iusticiario quia
Rex fuit et dicebatur in possessione Vbi Ego et Hugo do

Ross frater meus destituti omni terra et sine aliquo dominio et percipientes predictum dominum nostrum regem contra nos motum et dictum dominum Walterum secum valde potentem et cum Regina pristino statu dictarum terrarum nostrarum nobis non restaurato donationem terrarum Buchanie factam domino Waltero predicto per dominum Regem Ratificauimus propter maiora pericula eminentia quia tunc pro certo in remotis quasi baniato existente fratre meo hugone predicto perimpleui voluntatem domini mei Regis concedendo domino Waltero concessionem quas feci quibus concessionibus factis dominus meus Rex restaurauit me ad primum statum meum comitatus Rossie Insuper notum facio per presentes quod in periculo anime mee et bona fide Hugo de Ross frater meus antedictus nullo tempore vite sue sursum mihi dedit tanquam domino suo superiori terras suas Buchanie quas de me tenuit in capite nisi ad cautelam vt per me maior defensio apponeretur in eisdem Et vt minus ipse et terre sue essent perturbate per suos contrariatores et emulos et vt ratione mei maiorem fauorem optinerent Et non celando Rei veritatem in reuera et fide qua Deo teneor nec fuit filia mea cum dicto domino Waltero sponsata cum voluntate mea Set omnino contra voluntatem meam nec aliquam concessionem vel donationem terrarum

siue conventionem cujuscunque successionis vel aliter sibi feci aliquo tempore vsque diem obitus domini mei Regis Daudid predecessoris vestri nisi ex rigore ejusdem domini mei Regis et iracundie sue timore nullius temporis momento ad hoc spontanea voluntate mea adhibita et hoc omnipotenti deo vestreque majestati regali presente scripto innotisco. In cuius Rei testimonium presentibus sigillum meum est appensum Datum apud Edynburgh xxiiij^o die Junij anno domini M^o ccc^o septuagesimo primo.

No. II.

[The following Charter, dated Sunday after St. Michael's day 1365, has been referred to in the Notes; and it is thought to be of some value, as having reference to an individual whose existence has almost been considered fabulous—Paul Mac Tyre.]

Omnibus hanc cartam visuris vel auditoris Hugo de Ross dominus de fylorth salutem in domino Nouerit vniuersitas vestra nos dedisse concessisse et hac presenti

carta nostra confirmasse delecto et speciali Genero nostro Paulo Mac Tyre omnes terras nostras de tutumtarvok tur-nok Amot et langvale in strathokel cum omnibus earundem justis pertinenciis pro homagio et fideli seruvicio suo nobis et heredibus nostris ab ipso et heredibus suis corporaliter prestito et prestando Tenendas et habendas predicto Paulo heredibusque suis inter ipsum et neptam nostram karissimam Mariotam de Graham procreatis seu procreandis de nobis et heredibus nostris in feodo et hereditate et in perpetuo successorio edicto quibus deficientibus quod absit predicto Paulo et heredibus suis de corpore suo cum quacunque alia sponsa procreatis vel procreandis et deficientibus heredibus de corpore proprio legitime procreatis vel procreandis quod absit prenomintas terras vt premittitur fratribus suis legitimis et eorum heredibus linea tantum directa discendentibus de eorum corporibus legitime procreatis seu procreandis volumus permanere Adeo libere quiete plenarie et honorifice bene et in pace in longitudine et latitudine in moris marrijs et marresiis aquis et stangnis pratis et pascuis atque pasturis viis semitis molendinis et bracinis aucupacionibus venacionibus et piscariis atque piscinis ac cum omnibus aliis libertatibus commoditatibus et asiamentis tam non nominatis quam nominatis ad predictas terra sed iure spectantibus seu quoquomodo spec-

tare valentibus in futurum Soluendo nobis et heredibus nostris predictus Paulus et heredes sui prenominati quolibet anno vnum par cirotecarum albarum vel vnum denarium ad festum pentecostis si petatur pro omni alio seruicio seculari quod supra exprimitur exactione seu demanda que per nos et heredes nostros de dicto Paulo heredibusque suis exigi poterint vel demandari Saluo forenseco seruicio domini nostri Regis quantum ad dictas terras dinoscitur pertinere Et licet ex homagio et seruicio iure comuni warda et releuium inde debentur Nos tamen ex gracia speciali pro nobis et heredibus nostris predicto Paulo vt prefertur heredibusque suis tam wardam quam Releuium per presentes penitus remittimus in futurum Nos vero Hugo de Ross heredesque nostri prenomintas terras de tutumtarvok turnok Amot et langvale in strathokel predicto Paulo et heredibus suis ut premittitur contra omnes homines et feminas warandizabimus acquietabimus et in perpetuum defendemus In cuius Rei testimonium sigillum nostrum huic carte patenti fecimus apponi Datum apud thayn in Cathania die dominica proxima post festum beati Michaelis hancangeli Anno domini millesimo tricentesimo sexagesimo quinto Hiis testibus venerabili in Christo patre domino thoma dei gratia Episcopo Catanensi domino Johanne de Morauia

Archidiacono eiusdem domino Johanne de Gamery canonico eiusdem domino symone canonico eiusdem domino Willelmo de lychona rectore de dysert Alexandro de Sancto claro cum multis aliis in testimonium requisitis.

No. III.

[*Fragment in the handwriting of David Ross, 15th Laird of Balnagown.*]

Hugh Ross, first laird, married Matilda, (or Maud,) sister to King Robert, 18 yeare of his reigne.

W^m Ross, 2^d laird, married Jean Dunbar, daughter to the Earle of March.

Hugh Ross, 3 leard, married Margrat Stewart, daughter to the Earle of Atholl.

W^m, 4 laird, married my Lord Livistone daughter, called Christian.

Walter, 5 leard, married Katheron M^cLendris, after qlk marriage Ross are called Clan Lendris.

Hugh Ross, 6 leard, married the Earle of Sutherland daughter, called Jennet Sutherland.

John Ross, 7 leard, married Christian M^cLeoud, daughter to M^cLeoud of Lewes.

Alex^r 8 laird, married Sutherland, daughter to the Earle of Sutherland, and sister to the first Lord Duffus.

S^r David, 9 leard, married Helenor Keith, daughter to the laird of Inverugie, being first married to the Duke of Albani's daughter.

Walter, the 10 leard, married Marion Grant, daughter to the Laird of Grant of Freuchie, now of that ilk.

Alex^r 11 leard, married Janet Sinclair, daughter to the Earle of Caitnes.

Geo, the 12 leard, married Marjorie Campbell, daughter to the laird of Calder, Sir M^cIntosh daughter.

David, 13 leard, married Jean Gordon, daughter to the Earle of Sutherland, without children ; then married Annabel Murray, daughter to the Earle Tullibardin.

David, 14 laird, married Marie Fraser, daughter to the Lord Lovat.

Myself is the 15th laird.

No. IV.

[The famous Simon Lord Lovat was at one time an ally of David Ross of Balnagown. They were first-cousins, and the latter appears to have taken some charge

of Lovat's defence when under the accusation of having used violence in compassing his marriage with the widow of his predecessor. The following Declaration, found among the Balnagown papers, signed by Lady Lovat, and regularly attested by five most respectable witnesses, appears well worthy of being preserved, as another of the various stratagems used by this extraordinary man to save himself from the consequences of his crime.]

Wee, Æmilia, Lady Lovat, do, by these, solemnly declare to all herein concerned, that because of my being lately married to Mr. Simon Fraser of Bewfort, there have several debates and contestations arisen among our friends and relations thereanent, even to the interesting the public government to interpose its royal authority against my said husband, and his friends and kinsmen, to our no small grief and disquiet, being that it tends to the utter ruin and excision of this your countrie, and all the gentlemen and others therein : Therefore, to prevent any furdur mistakes on the foresaid accompt, either in this countrie, or elsewhere the same happens to be called in question, wee, the saids Lady Emilia of Lovate, assert, affirm, and absolutely declaire to all and every one that has interest in me, either heir or elsewhere, that the said

Master Simon Fraser of Bewfort is my undoubted husband ; and that, without any force or compulsion whatsoever, I consented to be his lawful espoused wyfe, and shall, by God's help, continue so during all the dayes of my lyfetyne, and chirrish and maintain that love and affectione to him that a wyfe owes to a husband, and adheres to him in all events, and desyres he may be owned as such by all in whom I am nearly concerned. These presents I have signed att Erchles, with my own hand, before these honourable witnesses, Hugh Ross of Kilravock, Mr. Simon M'Kenzie of Allangrange, John Cuthbert, younger of Castlehill, and John M'Baine, mer^t in Inverness, upon the sixteenth day of November 1697 years, with John Chisolme, Laird of Comie, and Allan Cameron of Lochquych.

A. LOVETT.

H. ROSE, *witness.*

SIM. MACKENZIE, *witness.*

JO. CHISSOLM, *witness.*

ALLAN CAMERON, *witness.*

JO. M'BAIN, *witness.*

Upon the death of David Ross (3) of Balnagown in the year 1712, the estates passed, by separate destination, to

the Hon. Charles Ross, Colonel-General of Dragoons, second son of George eleventh Lord Ross of Halkhead.

Although of the same name, no relationship between the two families can now be traced ; their armorial bearings were different, and they were settled in different parts of Scotland. But a very intimate alliance appears to have existed between them for fully a hundred years previously ; the Lords Ross had large wadsets over the lands ; and in one instance the then laird had settled the estate, failing heirs of his own body, on the family of Lord Ross.¹ David Ross had no heirs nearer than the descendant of his great-great-grandfather, Ross of Pitcalnie. Balnagown was a Whig and a Presbyterian, and his lady was a great pillar of the Kirk, while Pitcalnie was a Tory and a Jacobite. Political considerations, therefore, made it desirable to establish in the position of laird of Balnagown, and, to a certain extent, chief of the clan of Ross, a man of sound principles and of powerful influence. General Ross was a Tory, but no Jacobite.

General Ross died in 1732, after executing an entail of the estates, to which he had added Logie, a property closely adjacent to the castle. He was succeeded by his

¹ See "Genealogical Deduction of the Roses of Kilravock." Edited by Mr. C. Innes for the Spalding Club. P. 310.

nephew Charles, second son of George, thirteenth Lord Ross, who was killed in 1745, at the battle of Fontenoy. He, again, was succeeded by his father, who died in 1754, and was also succeeded by his son William, fourteenth, and last Lord Ross. He survived only two months, on which the estate devolved on James Lockhart, the son of Grizel, daughter of William, twelfth Lord Ross, and Sir James Lockhart of Carstairs, Bart. He died without issue in 1760, and was succeeded by Sir John Lockhart Ross, a very eminent Naval Officer. The present baronet is Sir John's grandson.

The estates formed the subject of several very keenly contested lawsuits, between Sir James and his son Sir John on the one side, and Pitcalnie, as heir-of-line and heir-male of David Ross, and also Mr. Gilmour of Craigmillar, and John Murray, Esq., as descended from other branches of the Halkhead family, in whose favour David Ross had at different times executed settlements.

George Ross, Esq., of Pitcalnie, now claims the character of heir-male of the older family of Ross of Balnagown, and of the Earls of Ross, as being descended from Nicolas Ross, the son of Alexander Ross of Balnagown, by his second wife, Catherine Mackenzie, daughter of Kenneth Mackenzie of Kintail.





